

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis, and Administration

Mr. Nicholas J. DiMichael
Thompson Hine LLP
1920 N Street, NW
Washington DC 20036-1600

July 11, 2005

Re: Keokuk, Iowa Rail Construction Project

Dear Mr. DiMichael:

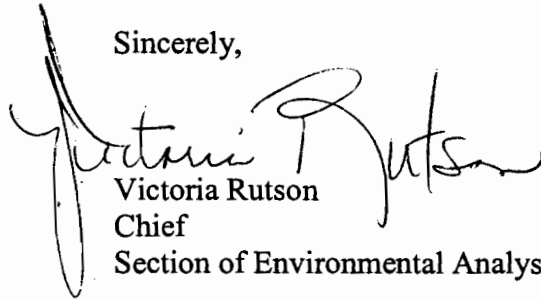
The Surface Transportation Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is approving, under 49 CFR 1105.10(d), Burns & McDonnell as the independent third-party consultant in the above cited project. Burns & McDonnell will assist the Board in preparing the appropriate environmental document in connection with Roquette America, Inc.'s (Roquette or applicant) prospective exemption petition to construct and operate a rail line in Keokuk, Iowa.

On June 20, 2005, we sent a disclosure statement to your office that you should forward to Burns & McDonnell to complete and return to us. As previously discussed, SEA will direct, supervise, review, and approve all environmental documents prepared by the independent third-party contractor in this proceeding.

Additionally, we must execute a Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) which outlines the responsibilities of the applicant, the consultant, and SEA. The MOU should be signed by the applicant, forwarded to Burns & McDonnell for signature, and returned to SEA. The purpose of the MOU is to establish an understanding between the applicant, the contractor, and SEA regarding the conditions and procedures each party must follow in preparing all environmental documentation. For your convenience, we forwarded a copy of a sample MOU to you on June 20, 2005.

If we can be of further assistance, please contact Christa Dean of my staff at (202) 565-1606.

Sincerely,



Victoria Rutson
Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis